



Brownfields 2009 Grant Fact Sheet

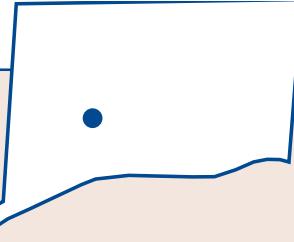
Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board, Waterbury, CT

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. The brownfields job training grants provide residents of communities impacted by brownfields with the skills and training needed to effectively gain employment in assessment and cleanup activities associated with brownfield redevelopment and environmental remediation. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board (NRWIB) was selected to receive a job training grant. The NRWIB serves 41 municipalities in northwest Connecticut with a combined population of 600,000. The NRWIB estimates that there are several hundred



Job Training Grant

\$200,000

EPA has selected the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board (NRWIB) for a job training grant. An aggressive outreach effort will be conducted to recruit potential trainees from Waterbury. The NRWIB plans to train 60 students, place 50 graduates in environmental jobs, and track students for one year. The training program will consist of three 336-hour cycles and include 164 hours of environmental, health, safety, and industrial training; 112 hours of lead and asbestos abatement training; and remediation technologies training. The NRWIB will solicit experienced instructors to conduct the training. The NRWIB will work with the Waterbury Development Corporation, trade unions, environmental organizations, and private sector remediation specialists to place graduates in environmental jobs.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

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<http://www.epa.gov/region1/brownfields/index.htm>

Grant Recipient: Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board, CT
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The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

brownfield sites within its service area. The focus of this project will be within the City of Waterbury, the largest municipality in the region. About 18 percent of city residents live below the poverty level. In the target

area, that figure approaches 50 percent. Many of the mill developments along the city's rivers and streams are now abandoned and blighted. These brownfields no longer provide much needed revenues to fund city services. Labor market assessments indicate that employment prospects and wages for program graduates could start them toward achieving a living wage that is sufficient to support a family. The aggressive environmental initiatives in the region and the addition of a green component by a local employer will provide job opportunities for environmental technicians.